

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

a pair of handles;

a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;

a second jaw which is ~~pivotal~~ movably mounted to said first jaw, said second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;

first means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other; and

second means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said second means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said second means includes a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, and a spring for biasing said pawl ~~being biased~~ toward said plurality of teeth.

13. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 12, wherein ~~for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:~~

~~a pair of handles;~~

~~a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;~~

~~a second jaw which is pivotally mounted to said first jaw, said second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;~~

~~first means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other; said first means includes a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl of said first means having teeth thereon which are adapted to mesh with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl of said first means is a block having three corners and three sides with one of said corners being rounded, said pawl of said first means has an aperture therethrough proximate to said rounded corner, said side which is opposite said rounded corner has said teeth thereon proximate to one of said other corners, said pawl of said first means further having and a pair of indents therein next to said teeth on said side which is opposite said rounded corner; and~~

~~second means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said second means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said second means includes a pawl operatively associated with said handles, said pawl of said second means being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl of said second means~~

~~being biased toward said plurality of teeth of said second jaw.~~

14-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

a pair of handles;

a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;

a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said second jaw being ~~pivotal~~ movably mounted to said first jaw;

means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position; and

means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position, said automatically returning means including a spring-loaded pin which is configured to be constantly engaged with said advancing means in either a first position or a second position, wherein when said spring-loaded pin is in said first position, said advancing means is configured to advance said second jaw from said open position to said closed position, and wherein when said spring-loaded pin is in said second position, said advancing means is configured to allow said automatically returning means to return said second jaw from said closed position to said open position.

24. (Previously presented) A tool as defined in claim 23, wherein said advancing means includes a pawl having a first indent and a second indent, and wherein said first position of said spring-loaded pin is within said first indent of said pawl, and wherein said second position of said spring-loaded pin is within said second indent of said pawl.

25-26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) A tool as defined in claim 12, wherein said second means advances said second jaw toward said first jaw by at least two times as many tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece.

28. (New) A tool as defined in claim 27, wherein said second means advances said second jaw toward said first jaw by three times as many tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece.

29. (New) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

a pair of handles;

a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;

a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said second jaw being movably mounted to said first jaw;

means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position, said advancing means includes:

a first member configured to advance said second jaw from said open position to said closed position when said handles are moved away from one another until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said first member configured to idle against said second jaw when said handles are moved away from one another after said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece;

a spring for biasing said first member toward said second jaw; and

a second member for driving said second jaw from said open position to said closed position when said handles are moved toward one another.

30. (New) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
first and second handles which are movably fastened to one another;
a first jaw which is fixed to said first handle;
a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof, said second jaw being movably mounted to said first jaw; and

a pawl structure for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position, said pawl structure comprising:

a speed pawl which is operatively associated with said second handle, and a spring for biasing said speed pawl toward said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said speed pawl being configured to engage said plurality of teeth of said second jaw to advance said second jaw from said open position to said closed position when said handles are moved away from one another until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said speed pawl further being configured to idle against said plurality of teeth of said second jaw when said handles are moved away from one another after said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece.

31. (New) A tool as defined in claim 30, wherein said pawl structure further comprises a drive pawl configured to engage said plurality of teeth of said second jaw to advance said second jaw from an open position to a closed position when said handles are moved toward one another.

32. (New) A tool as defined in claim 31, wherein said drive pawl is operatively associated with said second handle.

33. (New) A tool as defined in claim 31, wherein said drive pawl has a first indent and a second indent, and further including means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position, said automatically returning means being selectively engageable with one of said first and second indents of said drive pawl.

34. (New) A tool as defined in claim 31, wherein said drive pawl is configured to advance said second jaw toward said closed position by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other.

35. (New) A tool as defined in claim 34, wherein said speed pawl is configured to advance said second jaw toward said closed position by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece.

36. (New) A tool as defined in claim 35, wherein said drive pawl advances said second jaw by one tooth, and wherein said speed pawl advances said second jaw by three teeth.

37. (New) A tool as defined in claim 31, wherein said pawl structure further comprises a holding pawl configured to engage said plurality of teeth of said second jaw to prevent said second jaw from moving toward said open position when said handles are moved toward and away from one another.

38. (New) A tool as defined in claim 30, wherein said pawl structure further comprises:
a component which is secured to said second handle, said component includes at least one slot; and
a pin member fixedly secured to said speed pawl and slidably mounted in said at least one slot.

39. (New) A tool as defined in claim 38, wherein said at least one slot has first and second ends, said spring being configured to bias said pin member toward said first end of said at least one slot when said handles are moved away from one another until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece such that said speed pawl engages said plurality of teeth of said second jaw to advance said second jaw from said open position to said closed position, said spring further configured to allow said pin member to move toward said second end of said at least one slot when said handles are moved away from one another and when said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece such that said speed pawl idles against said plurality of teeth.